

Mrs. Oswald At Town Hall

By JOSEPH WERSHBA

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald strongly defended her son last night before 1,500 persons at Town Hall against the accusation that he assassinated President Kennedy.

She said she accepted the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald "is gone. But the way he went I'll never accept . . ."

She says she has asked to see her daughter-in-law Marina but that the Secret Service has refused her request.

No Tears

For the most part she talks of her son with an air of detachment. But when she reads a letter she sent to President Johnson—"You lost a friend . . . I lost a son . . . We are both human beings . . . We breathe the same air"—she chokes up and for the first time appears ready to cry. But she recovers quickly and there are no tears. And suddenly the reason is clear. Public figures don't cry. And Mrs. Marguerite Oswald is a public figure.

She listens to attorney Mark Lane and others attempt to shoot holes through the FBI story of the assassination and she picks up words like "scape-goat" and it comes out "scrap-goat." But she is a quick learner, and very much her own woman.

"I carried on this fight alone from the start and I'm going to continue to carry the fight," she says. "My son is innocent until proved guilty. That's the American way of life. My son was not on the FBI list of suspicious persons in Dallas. There is every possibility he worked for the CIA. Why else would he have posed openly as a leftist and a Marxist, if not to get in with these organizations and find out what they were doing?"

"This young man — whether he's my son or a stranger—



Post Photo by Pomerantz

MRS. MARGUERITE OSWALD
Defends son.

repeatedly declares, 'I didn't do it, I didn't do it.' And he's shot down. That's not the American way of life. A man is innocent until he's proved guilty."

Waiting on Lane

Like the Town Hall audience, Mrs. Oswald is awaiting further elaboration by Lane of his assertion last night that a week before the assassination, Dallas right-winger Bernard Weissman met with Ptlm J. D. Tippit and an unidentified third man in the Carousel, the striptease club operated by Jack Ruby. Weissman placed the full-page anti-Kennedy ad the day the President was assassinated. Officer Tippit was slain, allegedly by Oswald. Ruby is now on trial for Oswald's murder. Lane says he'll name the third man, "within a matter of weeks."

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